

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Item #1

Replace paragraph on page 3, lines 19-25 with the following paragraph:

To change the pitch dynamics typically tilt of the pitching machine in combination with varying the pitching machine wheel speed is required. This process can require significant time, trial and error adjustments, and a series of test pitches to fine tune the pitch speed and pitch location with respect to the batter. Though alone varying the speed of the pitching wheel can change ball speed, simply changing the pitching wheel speed can result in a pitch that is too high, or falls short of the strike zone. As such, varying only the pitching wheel speed does not produce adequate results.

Item #2

Replace paragraph starting on page 3, line 27 through page 4, line 7 with the following paragraph:

To vary types and kinds of pitches pitched to a batter typically two or more pitching machines are employed and setup side-by-side. Each pitching machine is typically setup to throw a different type or kind of pitch (i.e. fastball, changeup, curveball, etc.). Balls are then presented to one of the pitching machines pseudo random to vary the pitched balls presented to the batter. However, the setup of multiple pitching machines to vary pitch types is also a flawed approach in that the batter can see which pitching machine is pitching the ball and thus knows what type of pitch to anticipate. In addition,

the cost of this approach in requiring multiple pitching machines can be prohibitive and problematic in and of itself.

Item #3

Replace paragraph on page 4, lines 9-16 with the following paragraph:

There is a long felt need for a pitch dynamics device that can be used on a single-wheel pitching machine for adjusting the pitch dynamics of pitched balls, which in part gives rise to the following invention. In this regard, there is a need for a pitch dynamics device that can allow a pitching machine to throw different types and kinds of pitches with similar accuracy in a batter's strike zone area without changing the pitching machine setup, which may include recalibrating the pitching machine, throwing a series of test pitches to verify pitch accuracy, changing pitching machine wheel speed, or adjusting pitching machine tilt angle.

Item #4

Replace paragraph on page 4, lines 20-26 with the following paragraph:

The present invention relates to a pitch dynamics device, the pitch dynamics device being interconnected with a pitching machine for causing the pitching machine to vary the pitch dynamics of pitched balls. Optimally, variances in pitch dynamics can include varying pitch speed, pinch plate angle, and the pitch release point. The pitch release point can also be referred to as the pitch point. Such variations in pitch dynamics can result in the throwing of different speed pitches and pitch trajectories with similar pitch location accuracy.

Item #5

Replace paragraph on page 5, lines 14-18 with the following paragraph:

The ~~presentation~~ invention also relates to a pitch dynamics device having an electronic control system for allowing a user or operator, locally at the pitching machine or remotely (wired or wirelessly) to operate, program, data communicate, or otherwise control the pitch dynamics device, and as such control the pitch dynamics of pitched balls.

Item #6

Replace paragraph starting on page 8, line 25 through page 9, line 6 with the following paragraph:

Referring to Figure 1A there is shown a pitching machine 100 having a pitch dynamics device with handle embodiment attached thereto. The pitch dynamics device shown is in the fast-speed pitch dynamics pitch position. In an exemplary embodiment a pitching machine 100 can have attached to it a pitch dynamics device. The pitch dynamics device allows a user or operator to position a pinch plate such as pinch plate 106 in at least two different positions. These positions can include a fast-speed pitch dynamics pitch position and an off-speed pitch dynamics pitch position that can result in the throwing of different speed pitches having different pitch trajectories. In addition, both the fast-speed pitch and off speed pitch arrive[s] at the target position (batter's strike zone) with similar pitch location accuracy from a single-wheel pitching machine.

Item #7

Replace paragraph on page 9, lines 8-17 with the following paragraph:

In this regard, a user can easily position the pinch plate to apply a varied amount of pressure to the pitched ball as well as control the pitch release point by way of controlling the angle and location of the pinch plate 106, such that the fast-speed pitch dynamics and off-speed pitch dynamics pitches can be thrown by the pitch machine 100 and arrive at the batter in the approximate same location, that location being preferably the batter's strike zone. Switching between fast-speed pitch dynamics and off-speed pitch dynamics pitches can be accomplished without requiring pitching machine setup changes which may include[s] recalibrating the pitching machine, throwing a series of test pitches to verify pitch accuracy, changing pitching machine wheel speed, or adjust pitching machine tilt angle.

Item #8

Replace paragraph on page 11, lines 7-12 with the following paragraph:

Figure 1C better illustrates the pitch dynamics device in the off-speed pitch dynamics pitch position. The off-speed pitch position typically orientates the portion of the pinch plate 106 located closest to the ball chute 104 ~~closer to~~ at a maximum distance from the pitching machine wheel 112. Furthermore, the off-speed pitch dynamics pitch position typically orientates the forward portion of the pinch plate 106, the portion closest to the handle support 114, at an elevated angle with respect to the rear of the pinch plate 106.

Item #9

Replace paragraph on page 11, lines 14-20 with the following paragraph:

In this regard, a ball entering through ball chute 104 is pinched tighter between the pinch plate 106 and pitching wheel 112 in the ~~off~~ fast-speed pitch dynamics pitch position

verse the ~~fast~~ off-speed pitch dynamics position. The result is that the pitch is slowed while the pitch point is moved to the front edge of pinch plate 106 at an elevated angle, which causes the trajectory of the pitched ball to be elevated. As such, in this exemplary embodiment the pitch is slowed and the trajectory angle is increased such that the off-speed pitch dynamics pitch arrives at the batter within the batter strikes zone.

Item #10

Replace paragraph on page 13, lines 6-15 with the following paragraph:

Movement then of the pinch plate 106 into the off-speed pitch dynamics position slows the pitched ball by moving the pinch plate 106 ~~closer to~~ further from the pitching machine wheel 112, where the travel distance and positioning of the pinch plate 106 is governed by the pinch plate support leg 110 and the slot 152 cut into the support leg 110. At the same time pinch plate support leg 124 increases the pitch trajectory angle allowing the off-speed pitch to arrive to the batter's strike zone. It is the length of the slot 150 cut into the pinch plate support leg 124 that governs the position of the forward portion of the pinch plate 106 and thus mostly controls the trajectory angle and pitch release point. Slot 150 in part enables the pitch trajectory angle to be increased thus compensating for the slower pitch speed and causing the off-speed pitch to arrive on target.

Item #11

Replace paragraph starting on page 13, line 27 through page 14, line 6 with the following paragraph:

The location and length of slot 152 mostly controls the amount of pinch caused by the location of the rear or ball chute entry edge of the pinch plate 106, which in turn effects the ball speed. The combination of the location and lengths of slots 150 and 152

serve to orientate~~ing~~ the pinch plate 106 mostly horizontal for fast-speed pitch dynamics pitches and by orientate~~ing~~ the pinch plate 106 at an angle to reduce the pitch speed, move the pitch release point, and the increase of the trajectory angle of the pitched ball for off-speed pitches. While maintaining pitch accuracy for fast-speed, and off-speed pitches relative to a batter's strike zone.

Item #12

Replace paragraph starting on page 15, line 20 through page 16, line 2 with the following paragraph:

Referring to Figure 1C there is shown a pitching machine 100 having a pitch dynamics device with handle embodiment attached thereto, with the pitch dynamics device shown in the off-speed pitch dynamics pitch position. In the off-speed pitch position the pinch plate 106 edge closest to the ball entry chute 104 has been located ~~closer to~~ further from the pitching wheel 112 to ~~increase~~ decrease the amount of pinch on the ball. The ~~increased~~ decreased pinch on the ball slows the pitch while the elevated front edge of pinch plate 106, the edge closest to the support 114, moves the pitch release point to an elevated angle, which causes the trajectory angle of the pitch to increase. As a result, the off-speed pitch arrives at approximately the same location as the fast-speed pitch, that location being preferably the batter's strike zone.

Item #13

Replace paragraph on page 16, lines 4-14 with the following paragraph:

Referring to Figure 1D shows a pitching machine 100 having a pitch dynamics device attached incorporating an electronic control system 500 and positioning device 136 attached thereto. In an exemplary embodiment, manual positioning control of the

pitch dynamics device can be supplemented or eliminated with the addition of an electronic control system 500. In this regard, the electronic control system 500 having an optional keypad/touch pad 506, display 508, or other suitable, required or desires features to aid operation can be utilized to effectuate positioning of the pinch plate 106 and associated pitch dynamics device elements, by way of, a position control interface 512 and positioning device 136. Positioning device 136 can [be] preferably be a cam, solenoid, or other similar or suitable mechanical positioning device. Positioning device 136 can be referred to as a positioning actuator.

Item #14

Replace paragraph on page 17, lines 15-26 with the following paragraph:

Referring to Figures 1F there is shown the pitch dynamics device alignment plate 120. The pitch dynamics device alignment plate 120 includes sets of holes for properly aligning the handle 116 or the knob 132, and the interconnected pinch plate 106 in the fast-speed and slow-speed pitch positions. In this regard, Figure 1F shows a set of holes 134A, which receive locking pegs 130A and 130B to secure the pinch plate 106 in a mostly horizontal position. This mostly horizontal position enables the pitching machine 100 to throw fast-speed pitches. A set of holes 134B is utilized to receive locking pegs 130A and 130B to secure the pinch plate 106 in an elevated angle position. This elevated angle position enables the pinch plate to put ~~more~~ less pressure on the ball slowing the pitch speed as well as moving the pitch release point to an elevated angle trajectory such that the off-speed pitch arrives at relatively the same position as the fast-speed pitch, that relative same position being preferably a batter's strike zone.

Item #15

Replace paragraph on page 18, lines 1-3 with the following paragraph:

Pinch plate support legs 110 and 124, handle 116, handle support 114, pinch plate support 122, a knob 132, locking pegs 130A and 130B, a cam or solenoid or other similar or suitable positioning device 136 can be referred to as a positioning actuators.

Item #16

Replace the paragraph on page 18, lines 13-18 with the following paragraph:

Figure 1G illustrate the mechanics of the pinch plate 106 positioned in the full-speed position. Pinch plate support legs are positioned to allow the ~~bottom~~ top of the slot 152 in the pinch plate support leg 110 closest to the ball entry chute to touch its interconnecting bolt or other fastening means 128A, and to allow the top of the slot 150 in the pinch plate support leg 124 closest to the pitch point to touch its interconnecting bolt or other fastening means 128B.

Item #17

Replace paragraph starting on page 18, line 27 through page 19, line 3 with the following paragraph:

Typically for fast-speed pitches the pinch plate 106 is located at a ~~max~~minimum distance from the pitching machine wheel 112 and the trajectory angle is zero. In this regard, the pinch plate exerts a ~~min~~maximum and constant force on the ball from the entry chute 104 through the pitch release point. The pitch release point is typically defined as the point at which the pitched ball loses contact with the pitching machine 100.



Item #18

Replace paragraph on page 19, lines 5-11 with the following paragraph:

Figure 1H illustrates the mechanics of the pinch plate 106 in the off-speed position. Pinch plate support leg 110 is positioned to allow the ~~top~~ bottom of the slot 152 in the pinch plate support leg 110 closest to the ball entry chute to touch its interconnecting bolt or other fastening means 128A, and to allow the bottom of the slot 150 in the pinch plate support leg 124 closest to the pitch point to touch its interconnecting bolt or other fastening means 128A. In this configuration, the angle of the pinch plate 106 typically controls the pitch release point.

Item #19

Replace paragraph on page 19, lines 13-21 with the following paragraph:

Figure 1H illustrates the mechanics of the pinch plate 106 in the off-speed position. Typically for off-speed pitches the pinch plate 106 is located ~~at the ball entry chute~~ is at a ~~min~~maximum distance from the pitching machine wheel 112. This ~~increases~~ decreases the pinch pressure on the ball, which has the effect of slowing the pitch. Since the slot 150 length in the pinch plate support leg 124 (closest to the pitch point) is greater than the slot 152 length in the pinch plate support leg 110 (closest to ball entry chute 104) (in a preferred embodiment for example and not limitation three-quarters of an inch for slot 150 verse one half of an inch for slot 152) the pinch plate 106 trajectory angle is increased ~~greater than zero~~. Increasing the trajectory angle and slowing the ball speed enables the off-speed pitch to arrive at the batter in a hittable location, preferably the batter's strike zone.

Item #20

Replace paragraph on page 20, lines 10-14 with the following paragraph:

In general, the batter's experience in hitting a variety of pitches without the knowledge of which pitch type is coming next can better simulate conditions a batter may typically face[s] in game situations. As such, a pitch dynamics device that can conceal the type of pitch being thrown can significantly enhance the batter's learning, practice, and skills with respect to batting in game situations.

Item #21

Replace paragraph starting on page 21, line 27 through page 22, line 6 with the following paragraph:

A second positioning of the pinch plate 106 is shown in the off-speed pitch position as pinch plate position 106B. Following the path of the pitched ball to, through, and over pitching machine wheel 112 the exit trajectory is elevated with respect to the fast-speed pitch path 210A. The elevated trajectory is shown as path 210B. As such, the pinch plate 106B positioning has slowed at the ball 204B by ~~in~~decreasing the amount of pinch between the pinch plate 106B and the pitching machine wheel 112 while increasing the trajectory angle such that the trajectory path 210B of the off-speed pitch arrives at relatively the same position, which is at strike zone 208.

Item #22

Replace paragraph on page 28, lines 13-17 with the following paragraph:

In block 1004 the operator rotates the handle 116 if available or moves support 114 to position the pinch plate 106 between a mostly horizontal position for a fast-speed pitch and an angled position to move the pitch release point forward, slow the pitch, and

increase the trajectory angle of the pitch to create an off-speed pitch. Processing then moves to block 1006.

Item #23

Replace paragraph on page 31, lines 1-5 with the following paragraph:

In other exemplary embodiment a coach may decide which pitching routine is most appropriate for a certain batter and by way of a remote wireless device send[s] a data signal to the pitching machine 100 effectuating the pitch dynamics device and interconnected control system 500 to begin executing the selected and or desired pitch routine. Processing begins in decision block 3002.

Item #24

Replace paragraph on page 35, lines 8-10 with the following paragraph:

In block 4014 a batter performance report, statistical analysis, and other data, and or information can be viewed and or optionally data communicated to a data processing device[s] and or printed. Processing then moves back to block 4004.